

# VIETNAM COURIER

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*In this issue:*

## OUR UNCLE HO

by HA HUY GIAP  
member of the CC of the Viet Nam  
Workers' Party

President  
HO CHI MINH  
congratulating President  
TON DUC THANG  
when the latter was  
appointed Vice-President  
of the DRVN  
(July 1960)



IN SEPTEMBER:

*Translating Their Mourning into Revolutionary Deeds*

## PLAF OF ALL ARMS INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY HEAVY LOSSES IN ALL SOUTH VIET NAM STRATEGIC AREAS

- ◎ **Patriotic Forces Wiped Out or Decimated**
  - A Regimental CP
  - 14 Battalions or Similar Units
  - 40 Companies of US, Satellite and Puppet Troops.
- ◎ **Hundreds of Millions of People Took Part in Uprisings, Taking Away Important Strategic Regions from Enemy Control.**

## Nixon, His Person and Policy

— A Commentary by Nhan Dan on Sept. 29, 1969 —

ON September 26, Nixon held a news conference on the Viet Nam issue, the third in 10 days.

On September 16, he announced the withdrawal of 35,000 US troops in South Viet Nam to be completed by mid-December this year. Two days later, he boasted of this decision before the UN General Assembly. At the latest news conference Nixon promised to "end the war before the end of 1970 or before the middle of 1971." The New York Times said on September 27 that Nixon's remarks on Viet Nam were "disappointing."

The Nixon administration's bellicose stance, colonialist policy and obdurate attitude

toward the Viet Nam issue has drawn vigorous protests in the United States and the world.

During his 6 years as a Senator of California (1947-1952), Nixon was one of the most zealous defenders of the NATO aggressive bloc, advocated the sending of US troops to the European mainland, objected to China's renunciation in her legitimate right at the United Nations, and opposed the granting of allowances for the construction of public utility buildings. For eight years from 1953 to 1960, Eisenhower, Nixon and Dulles carried out an open

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Mr. Ha Van Lau:

IN REFUSING TO SET A  
TIME LIMIT FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL  
OF US TROOPS, NIXON LET OUT HIS  
OBSTINACY TO GO ON WITH THE WAR

At the 36th session of the Paris Conference, Ambassador Ha Van Lau, representative of the DRVN, again stressed the responsibility of the Nixon administration for the stalemate of the Conference, prolongation of the war and more useless sacrifices of American youth and people's lives and property. US troops do not cease stepping on criminal corpses and bombings in South Viet Nam, and infringing on the sovereignty, and threatening the security, of the DRVN. Of late, the US has friendly pushed up its "special war" in Laos, seriously challenging the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, while launching a noisy nuclear campaign against the DRVN in order to cover up its criminal acts.

The DRVN envoy revealed the perfidy of President Nixon who, in his Sept. 26, 1969 statement, made too much of his "will for peace" but refused to set a deadline for total withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam; this showed the pertinacity of the US President in prolonging the war and US military occupation of South Viet Nam, in flagrant contradiction with the legitimate aspirations of the American people and even Nixon's promises in the presidential election campaign. Mr. Ha Van Lau quoted many American newspapers and senior officials who had condemned Nixon's troop withdrawals in "small doses." He strongly blamed the US which, by clinging to its absurd demand for a "mutual

## NIXON, HIS PERSON AND POLICY

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policy of war, aggression and armed interference against Laos, Indonesia, Lebanon, Congo, Guatemala... and sent troops to cause tension in the Taitung Straits, in the Middle East and many other places.

The most serious interventionist and aggressive act taken by the US government at that time was against Viet Nam. The early years of the Eisenhower-Nixon administration coincided with the last years of the Vietnamese people's resistance and against the French colonialists. The US tried its hardest to breathe life to the latter and help them prolong the war. It defrayed 85 percent of the French war expenditures and took a more and more direct part in the war. During those years, the major part of aircraft, war vessels and weapons of the French were supplied by the United States. The Naavore plan aimed at winning victory within 18 months was endorsed by the USA in May 1953.

In 1954, when the French troops were defeated in Dien Bien Phu, the Eisenhower-Nixon administration mapped out the "Vulture" plan providing for the use of 60 B-29 strategic bombers based in the Philippines and 300 tactical bombers of the 7th Fleet to relieve pressure on the French troops.

After the French colonialists were defeated in Dien Bien Phu and the 1954 Geneva Agreements were signed, the US blatantly kicked out the French and jumped into the war against Viet Nam—bring Ngo Dinh Diem to power, sabotage the general election scheduled for 1956 under the Geneva Agreements and carry out extremely barbarous persecution and massacre of South Vietnamese people—was drawn up and executed by the Republic of Vietnam administration in the US.

Nixon, then Vice-President, played a main role in the US plan of aggression against Viet Nam, and his belittled stance in this question was known to all. He came to Viet Nam many times to train up his henchmen and step up the implementation of the plan to prolong and expand the war. In late 1959, on the pretext of the French public demand for an end to the war, Nixon on November 3, 1959 instructed the French officers and the Saigon puppets to refuse negotiations at any rate.

In the face of the obvious failure of the French colonialists, Nixon on April 16, 1954 said that if the French gave up the fighting, the US government would send troops to Indo-China if the situation warranted it, regardless of American public opinion.

In 1960, Nixon was appointed by the Republican Party to run for the presidency, but was defeated by Kennedy. In 1962, he was again defeated as a candidate for the post of governor of California. He then declared it was his last bid to enter a state organ.

But Nixon did not abandon his ambitions. In 1968, he campaigned for his election to the Presidency at a time when the US was sustaining heavy failures in Viet Nam. Crafty by nature, Nixon turned to full account the weaknesses of the Johnson administration and war-weary mood among the American people. So, this notorious fire-eater quickly changed his mind and put up the plea to end the war.

All through his electoral campaign, Nixon made peace his central slogan and went to the length of declaring in Key Biscayne on October 13, 1968, "Elect me and I'll end the war in 6 months." But, the plumage of a dove could not hide the black feather of a crow. While prattling about peace, Nixon objected to the cessation of the bombing in North Viet Nam. He opposed the Johnson administration's dragging out the war, declaring in Boston on August 21, 1967: "I believe it is right to commit our air and sea power against the North."

In other words, he asked for heavier bombing against North Viet Nam.

After more than 8 months of Nixon's office, the people in the United States and the world have seen more clearly the warlike stance, colonialist policy and stubborn attitude of Nixon who at one time promised to "end the war in 6 months." As many American papers have pointed out, Nixon is following in Johnson's footsteps. At the same time, drawing the experience of failure of the previous administration, Nixon has been resorting to many craftier manoeuvres and more effective deception.

The so-called "withdrawal of two batches of troops" have been but tricks to appease and fool public opinion.

One may ask what significance does the pull-out of 60,000 troops within half a year hold at a time when half a million American expeditionary troops are daily perpetrating heinous crimes in South Viet Nam? In fact, to withdraw troops that way is only a manoeuvre aimed at prolonging the US military occupation of South Viet Nam and prolonging the war. Like the absurd demand for "mutual withdrawal", this troop withdrawal play definitely can solve nothing, instead only bares the US dash design to continue the aggressive war.

Nixon also spoke of the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, but he urged to carry out this "right to self-determination" through a "general election" organized and controlled by the US lackeys and held at the gunpoint of the American troops. Nixon presumably had in mind the "general election" in Saigon when as Vice-President of the United States he made Ngo Dinh Diem "President" of the puppet administration. What Nixon called "the right to self-determination" is nothing less than the right for the US flunkeys to continue to serve as a tool of US neo colonialism.

Nixon's scheme has been exposed everywhere. American progressives are pushing up the anti-war movement. A major part of the US Congress, including senators of the Democratic and Republican Parties, are strongly critical of the very dangerous policy of Nixon on the Viet Nam question. It was in this context that the US President made "sensational" statements.

But no one has been taken in. Nixon claimed that he would bow the timetable for the withdrawal of 100,000 US troops of former US Secretary of Defense Clifford. The reality is that he announced the withdrawal of only 60,000 men by the end of this year. Now, Nixon clamoured that he was trying to "end the war before the end of 1970 or before the middle of 1971, but he still has to answer this question: if the US refuses to withdraw all its troops, how can it end the war? In fact, these manoeuvres are only variants of the promise "to end the war in 6 months."

Every morning, before class begins, groups of pupils sweep the floor in a classroom, weed the school-

EDUCATION is an affair of the masses. To fulfil all your tasks you must promote socialist democracy to the full, establish good relationships and close solidarity among the teachers, between the teachers and the students, among the students themselves, among cadres of various levels, and between the school and the people.

(Excerpt from President Ho Chi Minh's October 15, 1968 Message to cadres, teachers, workers, employees, pupils and students in infant schools, general education schools, complementary education classes, secondary vocational schools, colleges and universities on the opening of the 1968-1969 school year)



UNCLE HO amidst schoolgirls

## Bac Ly School and UNCLE HO's Teachings

An unusual solemnity has been prevailing in the Bac Ly Junior Secondary School (Nam Ha province) since the passing away of President Ho Chi Minh.

Everyday, before school begins, the headmaster and the principal teachers speak for fifteen minutes of Uncle Ho's revolutionary activities and exemplary heroism. Lessons of morals and lessons concerning current political events deal with the same subject. Never before have the pupils listened with so much attention and felt so much moved! Of their own free will, they come to school with well-combed hair, in tidy clothes and wearing pioneer red neckerchiefs. They look as serious as grown-ups. They take good care of their books and copy-books, write in clear letters, learn their lessons well and do all their home-works. Such good habits have been acquired in a few days, which has been a record in comparison with previous school years.

They put down touching impressions and self-criticisms in their newly-bound "moral note-books." "Uncle Ho, today I have not listened attentively during the maths lesson, I'll not do it again!" "Dear Uncle, I've made many mistakes in my physics exercise, I'll learn better!"

Every morning, before class begins, groups of pupils sweep the floor in a classroom, weed the school-

garden, look after their pigeons and rabbits, water the *chrysanthemum camellia* that reminds them of South Viet Nam...

By doing minor but significant acts, the children feel that Uncle Ho is still in their midst.

They also tend their experimental plot green with rice-plants.

By doing minor but significant acts, the children feel that Uncle Ho is still in their midst.

On the day when they heard of President Ho's death, the teaching staff was beside itself with sorrow. Nobody thought he would be able to set his mind on giving lessons. At 6.30 a.m., wiping away their tears, the teachers with their three hundred pupils in mourning gathered as usual at the foot of the flag-pole. The children burst out crying, moaning: "Uncle Ho, Uncle Ho!" But a few minutes later, school began.

Since then, the teachers have been redoubling their efforts. They sit up late to correct exercises, prepare lessons and look for materials on President Ho Chi Minh.

The new school-year demands higher quality in education. Four teachers have been transferred to other schools while some others have been assigned emergency tasks. The rest of the teaching staff has managed to get every piece of work done. Right at the end of the first week of the term, they finished putting in order form registers, which usually requires three or four weeks. They afterwards visited the pupils' parents to get acquainted with their living conditions and to help each pupil to progress in his studies. They have been fully aware that they must be more than ever attached to their pupils, to comfort them who are bereft of their beloved Uncle Ho.

Since its foundation ten years ago, the Bac Ly Junior Secondary School has boasted hundreds of pupils praised by Uncle Ho as good learners in one or many subjects and hundreds of others awarded the title of "Uncle Ho's good nephew or niece." Hundreds of these have become courageous fighters in the People's Army, such as Nguyen Van Tint and Cao Ngoc Dam who fell bravely fighting against US planes.

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## Viet Nam Fatherland Front C.C. Holds 18th Session

On Sept 29 and 30, 1969 the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front held its 18th session (enlarged) in Hanoi with Ton Duc Thang, its President and President of the DRVN, in the chair.

After paying its last tribute to President Ho Chi Minh, founder and honorary President of the Front, the meeting recalled the teachings of the great deceased leader on the building and directing of the national united front and worked out the trend and future task of the Front.

The unity of the entire people, the origin of all our

past achievements, said Hoang Quoc Viet, a Front C.C. Presidium member, in his report, is the surest guarantee of the final victory of our people's struggle against US aggression and for national salvation, of the attainment of the fundamental objectives of our people and of President Ho Chi Minh's ultimate hope expressed at the end of his testament: "My ultimate wish is that our whole Party and people, closely joining their efforts, build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam, and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution."

Up to September 27, 1969

3,327 US PLANES DOWNED  
IN NORTH VIET NAM

## SAIGON TYRANTS SET POLICE DOGS ON POLITICAL DETAINEES

On August 28, 1969, jail-ers at the prison gave orders to 400 political women detainees to move to other buildings so as to split them into small groups, to repress them more easily and conceal eventual crimes against them.

As the women inmates resisted, police dogs were set on them, killing 4 and wounding 177 others.

They were then sent to Chi Hoa prison, under the escort of armed cars and military police. At Chi Hoa they refused to get out of the vans and were assaulted by marines. They cursed the torturers, denounced their

crimes and requested that care should be given to the wounded and freedom given them to hold memorial rites for their dead comrades. One to split them into small groups, to repress them more easily and conceal eventual crimes against them.

The puppet administration had taken all the wounded and freedom given them to hold memorial rites for their dead comrades. One to split them into small groups, to repress them more easily and conceal eventual crimes against them.

But the affair was known among the local people, soldiers of the puppet army and medical personnel at Thu Duc, Chi Hoa and Chi Quan who strongly protested against these heinous crimes.

# US Imperialism Exposed as "Arfluent but Impotent" by Our Patriotic Resistance

**T**hile well-known military commander Quyet Thang has written for the Hanoi monthly "People's Army" an article entitled "US setbacks in Viet Nam explode the 'US military economic and military potentials' myth."

The first part of the article, backed by concrete figures, deals with the effects of the Viet Nam war on the so-called "US military economic potentials."

The second part analyzes US military setbacks in Viet Nam and the actual character of the "absolute superiority" of US military strength.

We give below the third and concluding part of the commentary.

**I**n face of the failure and impotence of the US imperialists in Viet Nam, many American and Western strategists are puzzled and find it hard to understand why the huge war potential of the US imperialists has been not only unable to help them snatch any strategic victory but also to save them from defeat? Why has the US aggressive war in Viet Nam, of a "limited" character only, landed this most powerful militaristic country in the most desperate and insuperable difficulties? The truth has been revealed in the *Time* of India which thinks it funny that such a small country (as Viet Nam) has been able not only to cripple this mightiest war machine but to drive it into confusion.

**1**—First of all, the limitations and weakening of economic and military potentials of US imperialism stem from its inherent contradictions. When referring to the US as the topmost imperialism we mean that it is the most powerful country heading the imperialist camp and also that it epitomizes the parasitic, reactionary, rotten and moribund character of imperialism. The US is the hub of imperialism on the horns of dilemmas. In its state monopoly capitalism, developed to the highest degree, is embarking on the militaristic path. The war industry booms and militarists' joint hands more and more tightly and are likely to control all government policy. This is the economic and social basis of the growing bellicosity and aggression of US imperialism, and turns it into the biggest exploiter and most ruthless capitalist, the main force of war and aggression and the public enemy number one, but this also shows the acuteness of the underlying conflicts between the social character of production and the private ownership of means of production in the capitalist mode of production in the US. It aggravates all other divergences economic, political, social—especially those between the ruling class and the working class. That is why, though bulky, the US economy is being plagued with all symptoms of an economic crisis of the capitalist regime. It is the Viet Nam war that has exacerbated the contradictions inherent in US economy and brought them to a dangerous head. In the gearing of US economy to the Viet

Nam war, the following contradictions have been brought out in bold relief which impede a great deal the US conduct of the war: contradiction between a peace-time economy and the shifting of an important part of it to a war footing; contradiction between the preparation of a nuclear war and the preparation and actual conduct of a conventional war (1); contradiction between production and consumption, between war requirements and domestic needs, between the all-out war effort in Viet Nam and overseas economic expansion, etc.

To cover the Viet Nam war expenditure the US has had to raise taxes, resort to inflation, curtail the "great society" program, cut military expenses in other foreign areas, streamline its "cosmic program", amend its defence (setting up of the missile-to-missile system) and armament race policy, reduce aids and overseas investments, etc.

US neo-colonialism in the world is the product of its helplessness in the face of the revolutionary onslaughts of the world revolutionary forces. As the US is the international gendarme, the watchdog of the imperialist camp, and as it steps up its overseas economic expansion (2), it must deploy its economic and military forces all over the world (3). Though it concentrates greatest efforts on the Viet Nam war, considering this to be an immediate central task, it cannot neglect West Europe and other areas. Besides, it has also to cope with its allies, flexible friends formerly but now potent foes, such

as France, Japan, Great Britain, West Germany, who, capitalizing on the difficulties of the US in Viet Nam, are contending with it for influence. As it has to scatter its money and troops all over the world to live up to its role as international gendarme, it cannot devote all its economic and military strength to Southeast Asia and Viet Nam.

In a war, the most decisive factor is politics and man. Material strength can be effective only by man. The US cannot put to an efficient use its huge potentials in the Viet Nam war because of its reactionary relations of production and rotten political regime, of its bellicose and aggressive policy, and of the unjust character of the war.

These contradictions are the most vivid illustration of the working of the law governing the decline of imperialism in general and of US imperialism in particular. The downhill march of the latter follows an irresistible objective trend because the economic and social contradictions inherent in it, at present at their highest peak, are working for its irremediable collapse; because the conflicts between it and the revolutionary peoples and progressive political regime of the new era, the era of revolutionary storms.

**2**—The heroic and successful struggle of the Vietnamese people has shown that US war potential is not in the least inexhaustible and is rapidly weakening.

US imperialism which uses neo-colonialism and colonial war to occupy South Viet Nam has met with the outest fundamental drawbacks in the political, military and economic field. These have been compelling it to go counter to the law and basic objectives of neo-colonialism and to sustain greater and greater strategic failures. US neo-colonial policy and the most naked and cruel aggression ever known in the history of mankind used to implement this policy in South Viet Nam, are deficient by nature and doomed to failure from the very beginning. This weakness is the root cause limiting seriously the deployment of US war potential.

Its expeditionary forces have to fight on a battlefield tens of thousands of miles from home, while the Vietnamese people who resist aggression in their own land benefit from three favourable factors—climatic, geographical and human—of which the large rear (the socialist North) linked with an immense rear (the powerful socialist camp) and engaged in socialist construction while mounting up successful resistance against aggression. This generates a huge potential which the enemy can never utilize. The US military technique which consists in staging a combined action—military operation, political struggle and agitation among enemy soldiers—and in forcing the enemy to scatter his forces, in endeavouring to nibble them, cause them to disintegrate, and to weaken and wipe them out.

Since the very beginning of our direct confrontation with the US, we have been equipped with the purpose of defeating the aggressors and have not let ourselves intimidated by their gigantic physical strength. Led by judicious revolutionary lines and imbued with the precept that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom", our people are resolute to fight to the end to liberate the South, defend the North and ultimately achieve the reunification of the country. This grim determination is based on a thorough revolutionary study and an accurate appraisal of the enemy forces and foibles and of the relations of forces of both sides.

From a revolutionary viewpoint and with scientific dialectical methods. We have come to the conclusion that US imperialism is affluent but not strong, that it possesses a huge economic and military potentials but its neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam has been weak since its inception and to sustain greater and greater strategic failures. The soundness of this conclusion is now corroborated by facts.

The revolutionary line and war conduct of our Party are the source of the strength and success of our people. Not only have they been able to mobilize the huge force of the Vietnamese people in the successful fight against US imperialism, to make the most of potential and superiority of the new social regime, but they have also given full play to the strong posture of the world revolution, enlisted the sympathy and support of the world's progressives including the American for their effort against the criminal war of US imperialism.

Apart from this firm resolve and sound line, our people know how to defeat an enemy with an immense economic and military potential. They have adopted offensive techniques which consist in staging a combined action—military operation, political struggle and agitation among enemy soldiers—and in forcing the enemy to scatter his forces, in endeavouring to nibble them, cause them to disintegrate, and to weaken and wipe them out.

The enemy trusts his build-up, firepower and great mobility to cope with our clever and matches people's war tactics. But we have tactical methods that can effectively neutralize the strong points of the enemy and enable us to develop up to the comprehensive strength of revolutionary war, to hold the initiative of attack and fight the enemy from a winning posture which inflicts on him human and material losses impossible to make good.

We impose on him battles of our

own choice; thus US tactics is caught on the wrong foot. The US command is out of its element, its modern aviation cannot bring to play its "universality" as it wishes, its infantry is unable to play the role of spearhead in this land war, while its helicopters, regarded as the "key" to the war, cannot open an avenue of escape for US military stalemate.

Our people's war has plunged the US into dire straits where no amount of money, manpower and weapons is enough for it to carry on.

In this war the US imperialists have presumed upon their gigantic military force and huge economic potential to crush the South Viet Nam revolution in a short time, but they have failed lamentably and are forced to drag out the war. But the longer the war, the heavier their losses and the greater their difficulties. This is the inevitable trend of their aggressive war; though stubborn, they cannot keep it up for a longer time on the present scale and intensity. Our people are winning and will finally defeat US aggressive war and neo-colonialism. Clearly, the economic and military potentials of our people have prevailed over those of US imperialism in this war. It is this economic and military strength of our people's war which is invincible. This greatest war resistance in our history has debunked the myth of "unlimited" economic potential and "invincible" military strength aimed at getting the most hated hand of our time.

Though their ultimate defeat is left in no doubt, the diehard American aggressors have not given up their dark design to cling to South Viet Nam. They are trying to find a way out for this war but in a winning posture; they have left no stone unturned to achieve their aim or to "Vietnamize" the war with the utopian hope of replacing GIs

with puppet troops in order to keep South Viet Nam in the orbit of US neo-colonialism.

More than ever, our people, millions as one man, are resolved to respond to President Ho Chi Minh's sacred appeal: "To perseveringly push forward the resistance war, and fight for complete withdrawal of US troops and collapse of the puppet regime so as to liberate the South, defend the North and ultimately achieve peaceful national reunification."

(1) In the Korean war, the ratio of nuclear weapons was 52 per cent against 48 per cent for conventional weapons. Before and after 1960 this ratio was respectively 70 and 30 per cent. In the Viet Nam war, production of nuclear weapons makes up for 53 per cent while conventional weapons 47 per cent.

(2) The US has resorted to four major tricks to carry out economic expansion: 1—did or special form of overseas investments; 2—private overseas investments; 3—exports of goods; 4—dollar as "sovereign" currency of the capitalist system. US overseas investments amount to 120 billion dollars. The US has a foreign market with a consumption capacity of about 150 billion dollars (30 billion dollars of goods from the US and 120 billion dollars of goods turned out by US overseas firms).

(3) According to *Time* magazine of April 1961, besides a force operating in and around Viet Nam, the US has about 900,000 troops overseas, has signed defence treaties with 48 countries and is running 49 major bases at home and abroad. The US has 10,000 bases total over 2,000 big and small.

## US Pilots Captured in Viet Nam

# Their Messages to Washington

**Editor's Note:** Quan Doi Nhan Lan (People's Army) has published a long reportage on US pilots captured and now detained in North Viet Nam. The following is one of the final chapters of this story. Subheads are ours.

**"W**E have been duped." "They have led to us." "Mr. Johnson and his entourage are big liars!"

Such is the bitter resentment felt by most of the American "strongmen" who have been captured and brought to this detention camp. To many of them such realities have dawned upon them, one after the other. They had no idea they had erred much in the past in their thinking.

It is true that the Vietnamese communists are very cruel? Is it true that the Vietnamese people are living a very wretched life under a totalitarian regime and are longing for the Americans to come and liberate them? Is it true that the North Vietnamese communists are very ruthless? Is it true that they cannot escape torture and death once in their hands? Is it true that the Asians, the Vietnamese in particular, are very backward

and ignorant and long for the US to come and bring them civilization and prosperity?

THEY SHOULD KNOW BETTER THEIR ADVERSARY

**H**ERE is a passage from an open letter sent to Washington by Captain L.P.:

"Mr. Johnson, what you said does not seem very formidable. I continue to feel that you and your government are deceived or you have deliberately deceived us. In North Viet Nam, people are going to the polls very often. They are not being deceived. They are a very civilized, human and tolerant people. They have given us a very good treatment not of any kind but out of their kind hearts, because they have a long tradition of humanity toward their captives. They have surrendered. They are very open-minded and know many things more than we do. I have known only a few persons but all those I

have met show a wide knowledge, a high culture and especially a very kind heart."

Navy Lieutenant Commander Allen Stratton, captured on January 5, 1967, told a foreign journalist: "You ask me what message I want to send to the authorities in the US. Well, that's this: they must weigh carefully before they decide to go to war. They should understand the opponent better. Our adversary's unbalanced resolve can only increase in proportion to our escalation. We want you to understand that here most of us were captured by rifle-armed men who were working out their fields. They are fighting back at us not only with the force of their arms but also with a very formidable, but also with the strength of their people which is even more formidable." Continuing with his head bent: "Here, only when some of us met together did we know that a great many of us had been captured by Vietnamese women. They held weapons of all kinds: carbines, rifles, knives, sticks, and tools like hoes, axes, sickles, weedeaters and fishing tackles. We want the men in Washington to know in detail the very unusual sight: our plane was shot down and we

bailed out. American aircraft were swarmed overhead, bombing and strafing the surroundings. That made our hair stand on end. Yet, the enemy did not take any action while their air defence batteries continued to thunder furiously. They rushed to us with sparkling eyes and tight lips. They brandished their guns on us. The only thing we could do was to drop everything that could be considered a weapon and raise our hands to ask for mercy. This frightful moment when we thought we were going to depart from this life is still fresh in my mind. I'll never forget it."

## COMPLETELY USELESS PREPARATIONS

**I**n early 1962, after Nixon took office on January 20, I met Air Force Lieutenant F.S. in the courtyard of the camp. I asked him: "Well, Johnson has left the White House and Nixon has just moved in. What do you think of it?" He hesitated for a moment before he said: "I have the same breath as if he had been pondering over it long before." "Yes, it means Mr. Johnson has gone back to Texas. He has a very big

ranch. But he may not, in good conscience, forget us here. He is indebted to us. It is he who has sent us here. Can he take part in the war now sit idly to watch his milch cows and leave us in the lurch?"

This debt Johnson has not paid them, but the Americans here have already been thinking with apprehension of the treatment the Nixon administration would mete out to them if they should be fortunate enough to return to the States. This is a matter which is tormenting some of them day and night.

It is the fear of being charged with "guilty behaviour", with "co-operation with the enemy", with "treason" on the part of the United States. I wanted to inquire deeper into this question. One day in early April 1962, I talked about this with an Air Force Captain for a whole afternoon. He said: "As we had lost more and more pilots and the number captured had been submitted to the inquiry body. If I am not mistaken, as a result 322 US officers were sentenced to keep silence and not to give away any information is also a weapon." What an irony it was! This two-week program of survival! It was completely useless! We have met together with this camp and all our fellow prisoners. We have met together in the pocket-books that were supposed to guide us in finding edible leaves and plants, in catching and firing birds, nests, or the packs of carmellos, arm akimbo, and slightly bent forward. "But I'll stand erect and defend my conduct which I believe is right."

He paused for a while, took a few more sips of hot tea, and went on with a point of humor: "But what is more ironical is that the Americans who played the Vietnam 'survival' schools in the United States gave a good beating, yes, a good beating although it was a sham beating. Here, there is nothing of the sort. The only torture battery I've ever seen is precisely the one at the US 'survival' school. I want the officials in the Pentagon to know that these good-for-nothing schools."

Air Force Lieutenant V.R. also had a concern of his own, and it was again the fear of punishment back in the States. He made this remark which sounded rather philosophical: "We think that the Administration will treat us quite brutally! Those who fail to achieve their aim before an adversary usually have the tendency to take vengeance on a third adversary. Who knows their anger at their failures will not descend upon us? We are very anxious about this. We mean that is awaiting there, in the States. But we don't mind, we have made every preparation. They may call us traitors. Well, they may court-martial us. Do you know, those whom I'll have to confront will be all white-haired commanders. There will be generals and admirals. They will stare at us like birds, nests, or the packs of carmellos, arm akimbo, and slightly bent forward. "But I'll stand erect and defend my conduct which I believe is right."

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20th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

## CELEBRATIONS OF People's China National Day

On September 30, 1969, DRVN President Ton Duc Thang, Secretary General of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Le Juon, President of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly Truong Chinh and Premier Pham Van Dong, sent a message of congratulations to the Party and State leaders of the PRC. Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the CC of the Chinese Communist Party, Lin Biao, Vice-Chairman of the CC of the Chinese Communist Party, and Chu En-lai, Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

On the evening of September 29, a grand meeting attended by the highest Party and State leaders of the DRVN was held in Hanoi under the auspices of the CC of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Viet Nam China Friendship Association and the Viet Nam Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. To commemorate the 20th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

A Chinese film week, a photo exhibition and talks on the achievements of the PRC were also organized. Chinese people in socialist construction were organized in Hanoi.

The Voice of Viet Nam Radio and Hanoi Press put out special programs and articles to greet the 20th National Day of the People's Republic of China.

## I.O.J. CONFERENCE Gives Viet Nam Full Support

THE Conference of the International Organization of Journalists in P'yongyang, which closed on September 21, unanimously approved two documents - a Manifesto and a Resolution - fully supporting the Vietnamese people's just struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

Both the Manifesto and the Resolution expressed full support for the 4 points of the Government of the DRVN and the 10-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NLF and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, as a fair and sound basis for the settlement of the Viet Nam problem. They demanded that the US withdraw all American troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam without any conditions, and that the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, and let the latter decide themselves their political regime without foreign interference.

The Manifesto particularly denounced the aggressive nature of the US imperialists - public enemy number one - and called on the peoples of the world to strengthen their solidarity and step up further their efforts against US aggression.

It strongly condemned the Nixon administration for stubbornly prolonging and intensifying its war of aggression against South Viet Nam and challenging the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people.

October 1, 1949:

## A GREAT LANDMARK IN THE CHINESE REVOLUTION

—Excerpts from Nhan Dan Editorial of October 1, 1969—

THE successful national people's democratic revolution in China and the birth of the People's Republic of China on October 1st, 1949 were tremendous and glorious achievements of the Chinese Communist Party headed by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and of the Chinese people after decades of hard and extremely valiant struggle against the domination of the imperialists, feudalists and bureaucratic capitalists. The founding of socialist China whose population makes up a quarter of the world's definitively tipped the balance of forces in the world in favour of the socialist, national, democratic and peace forces. It was at the same time a very great victory of Marxism-Leninism and the international communist movement and the most important advance of the world revolution following the Great October Socialist Revolution. It has greatly stimulated the revolutionary movement in various countries, especially the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Over the past 20 years, the Chinese people, striving their utmost to develop revolutionary enthusiasm and spirit of self-reliance and depending on their own efforts, have recorded considerable successes in their socialist revolution and building of socialism, thus turning the former semi-feudal, semi-colonial, poor and backward China into a powerful socialist country endowed with modern industry, agriculture and national defence and developed culture and science.

In response to the appeals made at the Conference by the delegations of the DRVN and the RSVN, all the delegates of the 90 countries and 12 international organizations signed a petition urging that the US pull out all troops of its own and of its satellites from South Viet Nam without laying down any conditions.

Viet Nam and China are close neighbouring socialist countries, always bound to each other in the long struggle for the interests of the two countries and for the common ideal and goal - socialism and communism.

In the past, the people of our two countries joined hands against the common enemy, the feudalists and the imperialists. At present, our people are in league against the common enemy, the US imperialists. US aggression in Viet Nam is part and parcel of its overall scheme to attack China. In return, their occupation of Taiwan and their acts of opposing China aim to weaken the Vietnamese revolution. To unite closely and increase support for each other is a requisite of the revolutionary struggle of both peoples of China and Viet Nam.

Under the clearheaded and sound leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the resistance against the US aggressors, for national salvation of the Vietnamese people has recorded tremendous successes. The valuable support and assistance of the Communist Party, Government and people of China have helped the Vietnamese people strengthen their economic and national defense potentials, and strongly stimulated the Vietnamese armed forces and people to march forward to defeat completely the US aggressors. Our people sincerely thank the Communist Party, Government and the brotherly people of China for this strong support and great assistance.

The presence of a delegation of our Party and Government led by Premier Pham Van Dong and a delegation of South Viet Nam headed by President Nguyen Huu Tho at the 20th anniversary celebrations of the National Day of the People's Republic of China is clear indication of our people's appreciation of the friendship and militant solidarity between the peoples of the two countries, and untiring efforts to enhance it.

In their revolutionary struggle, the Vietnamese people have never ceased receiving wholehearted support and assistance from the Communist Party, Government and people of China, in their past resistance against the French colonialists as well as in their socialist construction in North Viet Nam and since the US invaded our country.

We wish the Chinese people, under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party and esteemed Chairman Mao Tse-tung, many and yet bigger successes in their socialist construction and in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

May the friendship and militant solidarity between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples consolidate and develop with each passing day!

### HUMOUR AND LESSONS

HERE, in prison, they are allowed to listen to the radio, read newspapers and books, draw pictures and write newspapers. Among the scores of cartoons I saw, I remember some which bore a marked American mode of thinking and style. Young Lieutenant Commander C.N. drew a picture, featuring a US plane in flames plummeting to the ground, and a US pilot bailing out while air-defence batteries were in full action. An official of a US Insurance Company with a bowler hat on his head and a travel bag in his hand hurried to the scene and exclaimed: "What a pity, I come a bit too late!" In an inside page, the paper featured Westmoreland with a full four-star patch, and a suitcase in his hand boarding a big plane marked "Washington Express." The caption read: "Well, how can my successor unravel the mess I have made all through the past four years?"

No less humorous were the drawings by Air Force Lieutenant Colonel P.L. He portrayed a Johnson flat on the ground palling at Westmoreland's sleeve and moaning about: "Hey Westy, I think I see that same light at the end of the tunnel that you saw last year." But this light, as seen in the picture, turned out to be the glowing fire of the Liberation Army artillery pounding at the US base in Tan Son Nhut.

In the last pages, along with a commentary on the American withdrawal from Khe Sanh, the same artist in striped pyjamas drew the following picture: a bulging US military truck with the inscriptions on the door: "USMC Withdrawal" and "The truck was many mounds of earth planted with signs reading, 'Hill 74'." "Hill 74" is the road-side beneath an arrow pointing in the direction of Saigon was a broken wooden board inscribed with these words: "Hold at any cost! Signed: L.H.J. Two GIs were busy shovelling earth onto the truck. One told the other: 'We can't hold Khe Sanh, here so we are moving the whole place closer to Saigon.'"

In another wall-paper issued in early 1969, Navy Captain K.C. drew a picture of Uncle Sam with a stars-and-stripes bowler hat, his clothes mended with hundreds of patches, each depicting one of his crimes in the US such as "price-rise", "tax increase", "prime", "devaluation", "Black violence". The biggest patch bore the word "Viet Nam war." An American shook hands with Uncle Sam, saying: "Why do you look so depressed? We are in the red, but you must get some better clothes, hey?"

Another artist, Navy Lieutenant K., was not less gifted. He drew a bare-breasted Abrams shouting orders to an American female secretary who was dusting the drawers in his escritoire. The drawers bore the inscriptions: "Search and Destroy", "First Dry-Season Counter-Offensive", "Se-

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cond Dry-Season Counter-Offensive", "Top Secret". "To be burnt after reading." The caption read: "We must clear the dust and keep all this stuff under the famous 'clear-and-hold' plan." Another drawing by the same artist: Bunker took an American senator on an inspection tour in Saigon in a military cemetery of the US strewn with graves of US soldiers. He said: "Yes, Senator, this is the land we intend to hold to the end against subversion and sabotage."

One day in early August 1969 I showed Captain H.P. a piece of news. It was about a statement by US Defense Secretary Melvin Laird that the US government was deeply concerned with the fate of the American military men detained in North Viet Nam. The US pilot's reaction was quick: "Let those gentlemen need not worry about us here. The best thing they should do is to end quickly this wrong war and bring all the American boys home."

Many American pilots detained here did not mind their words. It was not that these bigwigs in Washington had any concern for these striped-pyjamas pilots. They pretended to be so because the American people, especially the families and relatives in the pilots detained here, were insisting with increasing firmness that the Nixon

administration end the war of aggression in Viet Nam and pull out all American troops so that these pilots may be soon rejoin their families.

Though having no pity for the pilots, the Nixon administration cannot but be alarmed by their capture since they belong to the elite of the US Air Force which in many ways is the trump-card of Washington's "big stick" policy. A US Navy captain said: "As far as I know, there are in the United States Armed Forces quite a lot of pilots of transport, reconnaissance, training, relief and tanker planes and helicopters. But there are only a few thousand pilots of fighter-bombers. The fighter pilots can look down upon a US soldier of any other armal service. I would like to add that the number of those qualified fighter-pilots considered 'old hands' among US can be counted only by the hundreds. Yet in this camp, as far as I know, most of us are fighter-pilots."

Not a few among the elite of the US armed forces, which their heads high in the US, have had to bow them to the Vietnamese people and to the relatives in the pilots detained here. This is indeed a slap in the face of the American brass and the relatives in Washington. But that is not all. There are other reasons for their alarm. Veteran

THANH TIN

In the First Half of September

More US Imperialists' Crimes in SVN

THE US aggressors have been stepping up cruel war acts in a decline in the military pressure upon the South Vietnamese people. The US expeditionary forces have continually been using noxious chemicals and gases against civilians and soldiers. The US imperialists have supplied the puppet army with 170 warships and have speedily been building up for it a naval force of about 50,000 men in order to intensify their war of aggression and to impose their neo-colonialist domination on South Viet Nam. They have been continually sending in the craft of all types on indiscriminate bombing and strafing missions on inhabited areas. AFP on September 1 reported that "In the last 24 hours, B-52s dropped nearly 2,000 tons of bombs. Tay Ninh, Binh Long, Phuoc Long and Long Khanh provinces were hit."

Mc Nair, governor of South Carolina, said: "We find there is talk of a new era of cooperation."

With no regard for the feelings and aspirations of the South Vietnamese people and the emotions of the world peoples before President Ho Chi Minh's passing away, puppet president Nguyen V. Thieu cynically declared that since "the death of

her Rainer said: "It is no wonder that they felt such a concern over our capture. As you can see for yourselves, we are holders of a wide range of secrets of the US defence fabric. What a danger now that we are in the hands of the adversary. How can they remain quiet?"

In fact, among the striped-pyjamas pilots detained here many have quite substantial knowledge of the questions of strategy, tactics, techniques and weaponry of the US armed forces.

Some have graduated from military institutes and know quite a lot about the tactics of the military aggression blocs under the aegis of US imperialism. Others had worked for many years in key organs of the Pentagon. Many know a lot about the US bases scattered all over the world. Some are electronic engineers, military aircraft mechanics or technical experts in many important branches of the US Air Force and Navy. Just think that these men are fighter-pilots.

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## BAC LY...

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Most of the pupils, remaining in their native village, have turned out very able cadres or co-op members. For instance, Party cell secretary Cao Thanh Thang has helped the Kim Khe village successfully grow rice in flooded fields before his village has become good teachers and technicians.

In these days of mourning, teachers and pupils often betoken to the "School Museum." There they like to look at a historic photo of Uncle Ho engaged in a friendly talk with two teachers of the school Nguyen Le Hoa and Nguyen Gia Quy in March 1964, during his visit to Bac Ly. Uncle Ho said to them: "Bac Ly should teach the people to grow rice better before you go to the front. Let us have a guideline: 'Let us turn into one another' in teaching better and learning better."

Bac Ly Party cell secretary Bui Thi Khol told me, "In the viable, school year 6 per cent of our candidates failed in the exam. In each class, four or five pupils had to be sent to the front in the same form. That was our great concern. We'd do our best to make greater efforts and be worthy of Uncle Ho's praise."

THE LONG

In September: Translating Their Mourning into Revolutionary Deeds

# PLAF of All Arms Inflicted on the Enemy Heavy Losses in All South Viet Nam Strategic Areas

- Patriotic Forces Wiped Out or Decimated
  - A Regimental CP
  - 14 Battalions or Similar Units
  - 40 Companies of US Satellite and Puppet Troops.
- Hundreds of Millions of People Took Part in Uprisings, Taking Away Important Strategic Regions from Enemy Control.

**F**AR from demoralizing PLAF men, the deep grief over President Ho Chi Minh's death in September last which has affected all Vietnamese worthy of this name, has redoubled their energy, as the enemy has seen it. Though the patriots strictly observed a 3-day truce, only returned the blows of the enemy who once again showed a great dishonesty, his losses proved very serious. Without mentioning the damage caused in many daily clashes by small guerrilla groups in villages in which the enemy set foot, the US and quislings had in September a regimental CP wiped out, 14 battalions or similar units and over 40 companies put out of action.

Ca Mau peninsula and the Cua Viet linking Dong Ha, the biggest US logistic base south of the DMZ, to the sea.

In September, hundreds of thousands of people living in enemy-held areas, rose up and assaulted hundreds of strategic hamlets—concentration camps in which the enemy pens up the inhabitants in an attempt to "empty the water and take the fish." Many important strategic areas, such as the periphery of some towns or cities, bases or localities along trunk communication lines, were freed from enemy control.

Here are the most remarkable PLAF feats in September:

South of the DMZ at the 17th parallel, patriotic forces hammered at US positions in Tan Lam region (Rockpile) and bombarded the HQ of US Marine Division 3 at Dong Ha, putting out of action 800 enemy troops, forcing the enemy to evacuate three gun emplacements and downing in 8 days (up to Sept. 18) 32 aircraft (13 on Sept. 13 alone).

Near Hue, 200 GI's including a great many officers, were killed or wounded in these two onsets against two brigade HQs of US Airborne Division 1st. Besides, two puppet regimental CPs (one in Hue city) came under fire. Rural guerrillas operating in low-lying districts and a mountain district in that region knocked out 550 enemy soldiers (Sept. 5-20).

On the Da Nang front, the HQs of US Third "Amphibious Forces" and US Marine Division 1, the CP of US Marine Regiment 3 as well as Da Nang and Nuec Nam airbases, logistic bases, a military training centre and other enemy positions suffered heavy losses in men and materiel. Further southeast, in Quang Ngai province, PLAF counter-raids in 4 districts inflicted heavy damage on the enemy who took 400

casualties and had 13 armoured vehicles destroyed when the Chop Chai post was overrun by the PLAF.

In South Central Viet Nam, 183km east-northeast of Saigon the sub-sector CP at Song Luy was stormed and further east, the patriots wiped out an enemy battalion and 2 companies, wrecked 35 vehicles and 3 cannons and downed 3 choppers in a devastating ambush. In the Western High Plateaux, Di Linh sub-sector CP, 175km northeast of Saigon, was flattened: a regimental CP, a puppet battalion and 4 companies and a group of American advisors were wiped out, 400 enemy casualties were listed. At Dalat, a mountain resort, PLAF men pounded a police training centre and disabled 160 men.

On Saigon front (provinces in Eastern Nam Bo) about 30 enemy positions were assaulted in a night in Binh Long and Phuoc Long provinces, including the base of Brigade 3, First Cav., the CP of puppet Regiment 9 and 4 sub-sector CPs. At Chen Thanh (CP of puppet Regiment 9), the enemy had 500 men put out of action and 20 armoured vehicles destroyed on the night of Sept. 4. A few days later, a puppet Ranger battalion was wiped out and another decimated in the *Dac Lap* river area, about 150km north-northeast of Saigon. 200 vehicles were blasted out of use and 12 companies knocked out of the charge when two enemy columns were ambushed on Road No 13 and 3 encampments overrun by the PLAF.

Northwest of Saigon, in Tay Ninh province, the patriots stormed 2 US camps and 11 companies; 2,000 enemy troops put out of action, 30 helicopters grounded and over 100 vehicles destroyed.

Near Saigon, a US encampment at Bo La, a puppet battalion CP at Thanh An and a US CP near Dau Tieng were levelled: the enemy lost 300 men and 37 vehicles.

South of Saigon, in an area about 30km from the city, 500 adverse troops were disabled and 5 vessels sunk by the PLAF. A significant event: At Ky Son, a patriotic soldier in the puppet army, incensed by the American advisors and puppet officers' orders to his mates to go on a raid during the truce in memory of President Ho Chi Minh, shot at his superiors and killed an American colonel and an American major.

Southeast of Saigon, the PLAF wrecked 12 tanks and armoured cars and exacted a toll of 300 enemy troops including many Thai mercenaries.

In the Mekong Delta, despite the floods of the Mekong river this year in 8 provinces, 12 enemy companies and 3 battalions were written off the muster roll. Nearly 50,000 people in My Tho and Ben Tre provinces dismantled 70 strategic hamlets. From Sept. 4 to 12, in My Tho province alone, 2,000 adverse troops and 60 vehicles were put out of action. From Sept. 4 to 15, in Ben Tre province, 1,000 enemy soldiers met the same fate and 7 vessels sent to the bottom. In An Giang province, PLAF men inflicted on the enemy 500 casualties in concerted action at *Tue Dap* and another 1,500 in Can Tho province.

**T**HE successes obtained in September by the 3 categories of PLAF troops (regular, local and guerrilla) in various regions once more threw light on the score plight of the US and quislings. Their "hold-and-clear" strategy and defensive tactics have come to grief. Their 18,533 which drop thousands of tons of bombs daily, their tactical air force, and their artillery which squander huge quantities of ammunition are incapable of altering the course of events which brings them nearer and nearer to total collapse.

**T**HE PLAF struck at enemy defence belts, stormed many points d'appui and armoured compounds in the sectors north and northwest of Saigon, in Tay Ninh and Binh Long provinces. They penetrated into the enemy defence position around Da Nang, the biggest US base in South-East Asia, and destroyed either by shelling or by assaults, a dozen positions, military CPs, logistic depots, etc., and even the targets located in the city itself. Besides, dozens of posts, bases, sub-sector CPs, military training centres were assaulted and sweeps fought off in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, the Western High Plateaux and the Mekong Delta.

PLAF attacks on communication lines were disastrous for the enemy chiefly on Roads No 13 (Saigon-Loc Ninh), No 15 (Bien Hoa-Vung Tau), No 9 (Dong Ha-Tan Lam), No 1 (Saigon-Hue), the railway sections still open to traffic between Da Nang and Huer, and waterways such as the Long Tau canal, linking Saigon to the sea, the Western Vam Co and Eastern Vam Co whose basin lies between Saigon and the large Mekong Delta, the Bo De which waters the